

What is claimed is:

1. A method of characterizing a logical storage object, the method comprising:
storing information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics
5 for the logical storage object; and
transmitting the information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split
characteristics for the data storage object to a processor.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the information characterizing quiesce
10 capabilities and split characteristics includes information identifying methods for
placing the logical storage object in a state of transactional consistency.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information identifying methods for
placing the logical storage object in a state of transactional consistency includes a
15 quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the information characterizing quiesce
capabilities and split characteristics includes information identifying methods for
deriving a point in time image from the logical storage object.
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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the information identifying methods for
deriving a point in time image from the logical storage object includes a split-type
attribute and a split-node attribute.
- 25 6. A data structure for characterizing a logical storage object, wherein the data
structure comprises:
a quiesce characterization, wherein the quiesce characterization includes a
method for placing the logical storage object in a state of transactional consistency;
and

a split type characterization, wherein the split type characterization includes a method of deriving a point in time image from the logical storage object.

7. The data structure of claim 6, wherein the quiesce characterization includes a quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute.

8. The data structure of claim 6, wherein the split type characterization includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.

9. A storage object, comprising:
means for storing data;
means for storing information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics for the data storage object; and
means for transmitting the information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics for the data storage object to a processor.

10. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the information characterizing quiesce capabilities includes a quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute.

11. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the information characterizing split characteristics includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.

12. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the means for storing includes a file manager.

13. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the means for storing includes a volume manager.

14. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the means for storing includes nonvolatile memory.

15. A plug-in component for providing data representative of quiesce behavior of a logical storage object, the component comprising:
- configuration information;
 - 5 tactical syntax information describing how a frozen image of the logical storage object is generated; and
 - information describing quiesce capabilities within the logical storage object.
16. The plug-in component of claim 15, wherein the information describing
- 10 quiesce capabilities includes a quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute.
17. The plug-in component of claim 15, wherein the information describing quiesce capabilities includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.